

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 4 and 11-18 are allowed. By this Amendment, Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is presented.

Entry of the Amendment Proper

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (a) explain why the application is currently in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration as the rejected claims are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and the remaining pending claims are indicated as being allowed in the outstanding Office Action; (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 11-18 Allowed

Applicants respectfully acknowledge and appreciate the indication by the Examiner that Claims 4 and 11-18 are allowed.

Rejections of Claims 1-3 and 5-10 Moot

Claims 1-2, 6, and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 4-27487 to Sakakibara in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,461,547 to Ciupke et al. (hereinafter "Ciupke"). Claims 1-3, 7-8, and 10 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,334,993 to Okajima et al. (hereinafter "Okajima") in view of Ciupke. Claims 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okajima in view of Ciupke as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,313,891 to Nagakubo et al. (hereinafter "Nagakubo"). Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okajima in view of Ciupke as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 5,704,703 to Yamada et al. (hereinafter "Yamada"). Applicants respectfully traverse each rejection. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okajima in view of Ciupke as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,016,175 to Kim. Applicants respectfully traverse each rejection. However, as Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants respectfully submit each rejection is rendered moot and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding rejections, allowance of claims 4 and 11-18, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 107336-00000.**

Respectfully submitted,
Arent Fox Kintner Plotkin & Kahn, PLLC



Murat Ozgu
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,275

Customer No.: 004372

1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel: (202) 857-6000
Fax: (202) 638-4810

MO/elp
Enclosure: Information Disclosure Statement
PTO Form 1449